irrespective of the amount standing to the credit of the deceased account holder.

(ii) In case where the deceased depositor had not made any nomination or for the accounts other than those styled as "either or survivor" (such as single or jointly operated accounts), banks may fix a mininum threshold limit up to which claims in respect of the deceased depositors could be settled without insisting on production of any documentation other than a letter of indemnity.

(iii) Claims in respect of deceased depositors are settled and payments released to survivor(s)/nominee(s) within a period not exceeding 15 days from the date of receipt of the claim subject to the production of proof of death of the depositor and suitable identification of the claimant (s) to the bank's satisfaction.

(iv) Wide publicity is given and guidance provided to deposit account holders on the benefits of the nomination facility and the survivorship clause.

Vacant posts reserved for SCs/STs/OBCs

348. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of vacancies/posts reserved for SCs, STs and OBCs are lying vacant since long in this Department and its subordinate offices:

(b) if so, since when these posts are lying vacant and the details of action so far to fill up the vacant posts of the above categories; and

(c) by when all the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2006

349. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2310 given in the Rajya Sabha on 20th March, 2007 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2006 regarding increasing of FDI in Insurance Sector was referred to a Group of Ministers for clearance long back; and

(b) if so, by when the said Bill is likely to be cleared by Government for introduction in Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The matter is still under consideration of the Group of Ministers.